A CHECKLIST OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE ISSUES

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NOTIFICATIONS (See "Notifications")

- ❑ First Responders (See "Required Emergency Notifications")
- ❑ News Media
- ❑ Government authorities
  - Agency: Emergency Response Administrator, DEM Director
  - State: Governor, Secretary of State, Lt. Governor
  - Local: Legislators and public officials from affected area.
- ❑ Other Stakeholders
  - Leaders of affected industries
  - Commercial Fishing Organizations
  - Citizen Environmentalist Organizations

SITE CONTROL

The first act of the Incident Commander must be to establish control of the site. A site must be controlled for the protection of first responders and to exclude unnecessary personnel. The basic approach is to establish three distinct zones, the exclusion zone (called the hot zone), contamination reduction zone (called the warm zone) and the support zone (called the cold zone).

HOT ZONE

The hot zone is the area where the actual incident occurred and contamination exists. All individuals entering the hot zone must wear the prescribed levels of personal protection and be decontaminated before leaving. Entry and exit check points will be established at the outer boundary of the hot zone to regulate the entry and exit of personnel and equipment. The outer boundary of the hot zone is initially established by visually surveying the immediate area and determining where the hazardous materials involved are located. Monitoring equipment may also be used to define the area.

WARM ZONE

The warm zone is the transitional area between the hot zone and the cold zone. This zone generally contains the decontamination area and access control points through which personnel and equipment enter and exit. Since this zone is less hazardous, personnel can wear lower levels of personal protection equipment.

COLD ZONE

The cold zone is the outermost part of the site and is considered non-contaminated. This is where the command post is located, along with support equipment. Normal work clothes are acceptable in this area. The command post should be situated upwind and upstream of the hot zone and should be easily accessible to highways or other transportation routes. The press is allowed in this zone.

The size and distances between the hot zone, warm zone, cold zone and the command post is based on conditions specific to each incident, the material involved, and the judgment of the incident commander. The following criteria should be considered when establishing zone boundaries:

- Physical and topographical features of the site;
- Weather conditions and wind direction;
- Field measurements of air contaminants;
- Air dispersion models of the chemical(s) involved;
- Physical, chemical, toxicological, and other characteristics of the chemical(s) present;
- Cleanup activities;
- Potential for fire or explosion; and
- Adequate roads, power sources, and water.

PRIORITIES

PRIORITIES FOR RESPONSE TO RELEASE OF POLLUTANTS

1. Protect human health and safety
    - Protect incident responders
    - Protect the public
    - Control all hazards – in the material discharged, the equipment used, and the environments that are affected
2. Contain the release
    - Control the source, terminate the flow
    - Contain the spill (e.g., booming, dikes and dams, dispersants, in-situ burning)
3. Protect environmentally sensitive habitats and wildlife
    - Identify sensitive habitats
    - Boom inlets
    - Rescue and protect wildlife
4. Protect economically important areas
    - Recreational areas, parks, beaches, trails
    - Homes and residential areas
    - Marinas
    - Hotels and resorts
5. Cleanup impacted areas
    - Physical recovery
    - Chemical cleaners
    - Bioremediation
6. Remediate the effects of the release
    - Assess natural resource damages
    - Rehabilitate the impacted area
    - Recover costs

FIRST THOUGHTS ON MAJOR OIL SPILLS:

- ❑ What is the hazard – kind of oil, amount spilled, location, and likely path?
- ❑ Have the proper response authorities been notified?
    - Call the Law Enforcement Hot Line -- (401) 222- 3070 or 800-498-1336
- ❑ What human and environmental resources are most at risk?
- ❑ Are people along the sea and/or landfall path duly warned?
- ❑ What is the source of the spill and who is the responsible party?
- ❑ What is being done to contain the spill and to minimize damage?
- ❑ Who is coordinating emergency response and clean-up?
- ❑ Should additional authorities be notified? (See “Notifications”)

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS (ESF) FOR ALL HAZARDS*

Transportation (ESF #1)

- How can we open routes in and out of the affected area?
- How can we regulate traffic to prevent bottlenecks and to assure access for emergency responders?

Communications (ESF #2)

- How can we be sure warnings reach the affected area?
- How can we develop, maintain, and restore state, local, and private sector communications assets (facilities for audio, video, and data transmissions via state and amateur radio networks, cellular telephone networks, and local and long-distance telephone systems, mail?)

Public Works and Engineering (ESF #3)

- How can we assess and secure buildings or other structures in an affected area to assure that they are safe for emergency responders and/or occupants?
- How can we insure that state roads and bridges remain viable? (e.g., remove debris from roadways, railroads, or airstrips for emergency vehicle passage, assist local road crews)
- How can we handle the generation, accumulation, and disposal of debris?
- How can we restore potable water and wastewater disposal capabilities?

Firefighting (ESF #4)

- How can we detect and suppress fires?
- How can we assist local fire fighters?

Information and Planning (ESF #5)

- How can we collect intelligence on the surrounding disaster?
  Its scope, the status of various systems (communications, transportation, utilities, etc.), the status of response resources?
- How can we develop short- and long-range plans in addressing issues as they develop?
- How can we gain technical expertise to assess and respond as conditions change?
- How can the public be best informed of changing conditions?
- How can we assure that updated conditions and instructions reach responders?
- How can we collect information about and properly document damages?
  Prepare to request federal assistance now or reimbursement later?
- How can we plan for recovery?
  Address short- and long-term economic impacts on local communities and assist them in developing reconstruction plans. (e.g., Targeted grants or loans for families and businesses)?
- How can we mitigate future potential hazards as recovery plans develop?

Mass Care (ESF #6)

- How can we shelter, feed, and care for victims of a disaster?
- How can we help victims locate relatives (and vice versa)?
- How can we provide social services support to victims?

Resource Support (ESF #7)

- How can we help with local logistics – the warehousing, packing, loading, transporting and tracking of response resources? The disposal of used or unused resources afterwards?

- How can we arrange for the purchase of and payment for response resources?
- How can we develop staging areas (temporary sites for assembling resources for affected areas) in a way that will both allow for rapid deployment and avoid overwhelming influxes?

Health and Medical Services (ESF #8)

- How can we move medical resources into the disaster area? Evacuate critical patients? Handle deceased victims?
- How can we minimize associated public health risks – staff shelters, first-aid stations or clinics, restore public health facilities, monitor epidemiological risks, administer vaccines or immunizations, determine hazards in accumulated debris or pollution in surrounding air or water?

Search and Rescue (ESF #9)

- How can we locate missing persons (people lost in the wild or in urban debris, escaped prisoners)?
- How can we extract victims from downed aircraft or collapsed structures?

Hazardous Materials (ESF #10)

- How can we coordinate technical response to releases of hazardous substances – chemical, biological, radiological?
- How can we anticipate and minimize off-site hazards from damaged facilities or vehicles that store or produce such hazardous substances?

Food and Water (ESF #11)

- How can we feed victims and emergency workers in affected areas?
- How can we assess and protect potential harm to the state's food supply as a result of the disaster?

Energy (ESF #12)

- How can we get temporary emergency power to critical facilities?
- How can we restore the utility infrastructure – electricity and gas?

Security and Law Enforcement (ESF #13)

- How can we maintain order in the flow of traffic into, out of, and around the affected area?
- How can we secure the site and maintain normal policing functions including riot control, explosive ordinance removal, counter-terrorism, etc.?
- How can we coordinate relocation or recapture of prisoners from damaged prisons?
- How might vacated prisons be used during or after the disaster?
- How can state police assist local police in evacuations?

Military Support (ESF #14)

- How can we best coordinate support from the National Guard?

Mental Health (ESF #15)

- How can we provide CIS (Crisis Intervention Support) to emergency workers?
- How can we provide for continuity of mental health services in the affected area and minimize psychological trauma in the community at-large?

Animal Care (ESF #16)

- How can we assess and minimize hazards to animals in the wild, on farms, in homes, and in zoos?
- How can we minimize animal traffic in and out of the affected area?
- How can we treat or euthanize affected animals? Dispose of casualties?
- How can we monitor and control contagious or zoonotic pathogens?

Volunteers and Donations (ESF #17)

- How can we manage the influx of donated goods and coordinate with the national Donations Management System?
- How can we coordinate the use of volunteer services – medical responders, public works crews, private charitable groups, etc.?

*For WWWeb links to information from FEMA on Emergency Support Functions, see: http://www.fema.gov/rrr/frp/frpesf.shtm